

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced his nominees to the U.S. service academies for the Class of 2016. After a thorough examination process in which his office reviewed numerous applications, Hinchey selected 23 local high school students whom he believes would excel at the U.S. Air Force, Military, Naval and Merchant Marine Academies.

"Every year it is such a great honor to nominate young men and women from our area to our nation's service academies," Hinchey said. "The 23 nominees this year underwent a thorough review and application process. Their dedication to community and country is without question. They have excelled in scholastics, physical fitness and extracurricular activities. They represent the very best of what our area has to offer to our prestigious service academies, and I wish them all the very best with the rest of the application process."

The selection process for the nominees was based on each student's scholastic record, physical fitness, extracurricular activities, professional recommendations and a personal interview. The process is highly competitive and the admissions departments of the service academies make the final decision on acceptance.

The names of Hinchey's nominees are listed by academy:

### **United States Air Force Academy**

Tyler Allen of Endicott - Union Endicott High School  
Colin Chateau of Wallkill - Wallkill Senior High School  
Ethan Stanley of Saugerties - Saugerties Senior High School  
Kristian Tialios of Mount Tremper - Onteora High School  
Vincent Webbe of Liberty - Liberty High School

### **United States Military Academy**

Margaret Anderson of Poughkeepsie - Poughkeepsie High School  
Amanda Bertholf of Liberty - Liberty High School  
Jack Crowley of Wallkill - Wallkill High School  
Brian Doyle of Johnson City , Johnson City High School  
Joseph Giordano III of Newburgh - New York Military Academy  
David Hart of Endwell - Seton Catholic Central

## **Hinchey Announces Service Academy Nominations for Class of 2016**

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Brian Hazen of Glen Spey - Eldred Junior Senior High School  
John Karluk of Binghamton - Binghamton High School  
Dustin Vellenga of Middletown - Chapel Field Christian High School  
George Walter of Modena - Wallkill High School

### **United States Merchant Marine Academy**

Keigan Thompson of Middletown - Pine Bush High School

### **United States Naval Academy**

Dylan Bonitz of Ellenville - Ellenville High School  
Brandon Marcello of Apalachin - Vestal Senior High School  
Vincent Montesana of Highland - Highland High School  
Megan Rausch of Glen Spey - Home School and SUNY Maritime College  
Chad Rogers of Newburgh - Brooks School  
Corey Strom of Endicott - Union Endicott High School  
Eric Wellman of Wallkill - Wallkill Senior High School

Members of the House and Senate may nominate eligible candidates for appointments to the nation's service academies. Senators nominate applicants statewide, while representatives, such as Hinchey, nominate applicants only from the congressional district they represent.

Students who are interested in being nominated by Hinchey in the future should first contact the service academy of their choice during their junior year in high school and then request a nomination from the congressman's office shortly thereafter. The deadline for the Class of 2017 nominations is October 19, 2012. For more information on the application process, students and parents are encouraged to visit Hinchey's website page on academy nominations at <http://hinchey.house.gov>.